



eNews from Sen. Lisa Murkowski - Vol. 2, Issue 9 : : [Visit Senator Murkowski's Web Site](#)
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Murkowski Visits Alaska Peninsula and Eastern Aleutian Communities

Over the Memorial Day Congressional recess I had the opportunity to visit King Cove, Unalaska, and Sand Point. This was my first trip to the region and gave me an opportunity to learn more about the needs and issues in the area.

In each community, I met with local officials and toured schools and other public facilities. I had the opportunity to attend town meetings to hear directly from the residents about the needs and issues important to them. Additionally I was able to learn more about the rich culture and history of the region. In King Cove, I was presented with a ceremonial Aleut hunting hat. In Unalaska, I saw artistic and historical artifacts at the museum, toured the Russian Orthodox Church and learned how the icons were saved during World War II. It was a very productive and enjoyable trip, and I hope to get back to see more of the region soon.



Presented with a gift in King Cove

UAF Recognized for Information Assurance Education

Congratulations to the University of Alaska Fairbanks for being recognized by the National Security Agency as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (CAEIAE).

UAF joins only 66 other universities throughout the nation in earning this prestigious honor. The CAEIAE

designation recognizes the University's pioneering research, teaching and national expertise in protecting digital infrastructure. To receive this designation, academic institutions are measured against a rigorous set of criteria which are updated annually to reflect national priorities and advancements in technology. The CAEIAE designation is valid for a three-year period, after which recertification is required to ensure that institutions and programs continue to improve and expand in the quickly evolving cyber-security field.

By receiving the CAEIAE designation, UAF is now eligible to apply for specialized funding, including full scholarships for students, capacity-building grants and research funds from federal agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. Based on these new resources, UAF intends to provide Information Assurance and Computer Security resources beyond the University, including state and local government, businesses and the public.



Anchorage Students Receive National Acclaim

Congratulations to Rogers Park Elementary School students Sean Doyle, Johna Rutz, Bryan Wright, Leif Monnett and their teacher John Baldwin. The team was awarded first place in the Toshiba ExploraVision Science Competition for developing the "Face Brace," which relieves pain and promotes healing of severe facial burns. More information about their project can be found on their [website](#).

The competition is designed to help students combine their imagination with their knowledge in science and technology. The teams select a technology, research how it works, and then project that technology into the future. The must also identify what breakthroughs are required for their vision to become a reality. Our nation will need young Americans with expertise in the fields of math, science and technology. These kids are certainly off to a great start.

Murkowski Introduces Tax Legislation to Assist Exxon Valdez Plaintiffs

On June 6, I introduced tax legislation to give the plaintiffs in the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement the ability to increase retirement contributions and to provide tax relief through income averaging. The bill covers all of the plaintiffs, 80% of whom are commercial fisherman, and is drafted to cover any possible settlement while the case is in litigation and any amounts received under the judgment if it is upheld. It is imperative that we address this issue soon as we anticipate a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals later this year.

Alaskan Honored for her work with FASD

I was honored to present to Alaskan Cheri Scott the NOFAS Excellence Award for her outstanding service in the fight against fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). For 20 years, Cheri Scott has been an advocate and authority on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders in Alaska, working with families impacted by FASD. Cheri is a founding member and FASD program manager of the Stone Soup Group, an advocacy

group in Anchorage that supports families who care for children with disabilities or special health needs. For more information visit their [website](#).

Alaska Native Women Needed for Breast Cancer Study



American Indian and Alaska Native women are needed to join a landmark study to discover the causes of breast cancer. The Sister Study will enroll 50,000 women whose sisters had breast cancer. For more information click [here](#).

June Designated National Internet Safety Month

The United States Senate passed a resolution I sponsored which designates June 2006 as National Internet Safety Month. The bipartisan resolution is designed to bring greater attention to the need for comprehensive Internet safety education. It is imperative that all Americans learn about the Internet safety strategies which will keep their children safe from victimization. Now is the time for America to focus its attention on supporting Internet safety, especially bearing in mind that children will soon be on summer vacation and will subsequently spend more time online.

First Group of Summer Interns Arrive in D.C.

Each summer I provide internships to graduating high school seniors. Interns will assist me and my staff in legislative and constituent duties. Individuals must be able writers and have good communications skills. Interns will assist in the day-to-day clerical and administrative tasks within the office such as directing mail, speaking with constituents, running errands, and assisting staff with research projects. The students gain insight into the workings of a Senate office and the legislative process.



Front (l-r): Josh Resnick, Anchorage; Katie Marquette, Fairbanks; John-Michael Villarama, Anchorage (icoordinator); Christianne Wackowski, Anchorage (coordinator); Haley Hatch, Seward; Jessica Phipps

*Graham, Ketchikan. **Back:** Luba Bartnitskaia, Anchorage; Morgan Weaver, Petersburg; Curtis Cornelius, Fort Greely; Daniel Heckman, Fairbanks; Erika Thorsness, Anchorage; Clayton Schuster, Fairbanks*

Great Living Alaskans – Hannah Watkins & Sophie Wiepking-Brown

Two young Americans—one high school student and one middle-level student—in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia were recently named State Honorees in the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. I had the opportunity to meet with the Alaska honorees on their trip to Washington, D.C., in May.



Hannah Watkins, 17, of Kenai has written a series of books for parents to read to their preschool children to help them understand and be prepared for natural disasters. Hannah was deeply moved by the devastating tsunami that occurred in the Indian Ocean in December 2004. Since those of us in Alaska are also prone to natural disasters, Hannah wanted to help people be better prepared. “I decided to target preschoolers because there are very few materials available for that age,” said Hannah, and because they’re “young enough to learn and old enough to remember.”

After researching the topic thoroughly, Hannah wrote and illustrated her first book, *Heidi and the Tsunami*, about a young girl who has to go to an evacuation center with her family after a tsunami warning. In addition to the story, the book features a facts page for kids and a tip page for parents. With help from the local Office of Emergency Management and corporate sponsors, Hannah’s book was published and distributed to every kindergarten and pre-K student on the Kenai Peninsula. Hannah has already finished two more books, *Molly and the Earthquake* and *James and the Volcano*, and is planning to write at least two more. “Children will have less stress in an emergency situation if they have a better understanding of what is

happening,” Hannah said.

Sophie Wiepking-Brown, 13, of Anchorage created a recycling and environmental awareness program that earned her synagogue official recognition for meeting stringent environmental standards. When Sophie began thinking about a community service project for her Bat Mitzvah, “I was naturally drawn to positive work on the environment,” she said. “If the earth is ruined, if our air and water are polluted, and if global warming produces destruction, life as we know it would be impossible. I want to do my bit to help future generations be able to live on the earth.”

Sophie set out not only to reduce waste at her synagogue, but also to earn a Green Star Award for meeting environmental standards established by a nonprofit Alaskan organization called Green Star, Inc. She examined trash cans to analyze what was being thrown away, learned about lighting and energy costs, and organized adults to help in the effort. Then she set up a recycling program, and produced posters and articles to educate her congregation’s 250 families about the importance of sound environmental practices. When the Green Star Award was presented to the synagogue last August, Sophie became the youngest coordinator of a project to be recognized in this way.



Senator Murkowski accepts a donation to Alaska Fishing Industry Relief Mission (AFIRM) from University of Alaska Sea Grant Director Brian Alee. Senator Murkowski formed AFIRM to help deliver assistance from Alaska’s fishing industry to the fishing communities of the Gulf Coast devastated by last year’s hurricanes. Sea Grant donated 10% of its book sales revenue for several months, raising \$5,800 for the cause.

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